

# The Vindicator.

STANTON, VA.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1860.

S. M. YOST, Editor and Proprietor.

## AGENTS.

JOHN M. REKRODE, of Highland, is authorized agent for this county, to receive subscriptions to the Vindicator, and collect claims due his office.

TO ADVERTISERS.—The Vindicator has a large and increasing circulation in this and the adjoining counties, and is a valuable medium for advertisers. Circulating among business men, it affords great inducement to those who will use its columns.

## Vindicator Accounts.

The accounts of the Vindicator for subscription to the 1st of January, and for advertising and job work to the 1st of April, are now being made off and will soon be presented.

As we are very desirous of closing up our business, we hope all those who are in arrears to us will be prepared to pay up when their accounts are presented.

April 1, 1860.

MICHELLE & CO.

## Notice.

The accounts due for subscriptions to the Vindicator from the 1st of January, 1860, are payable to the present proprietor. As it is our desire to establish as nearly as possible the cash system, we hope and expect every subscriber who has not already paid in advance, to come forward and do so immediately. It will simplify and prevent confusion in accounts, and be better for both us and our patrons.

"Rockbridge" received too late for this week.

We call attention to the new advertisements in to-day's paper.

Our farmers are now planting their corn. The grass is springing up beautifully, and the wheat looks luxuriant.

A new post-office has been created at Whisen's Mill, Rockingham county, and Isaac Whisen appointed post-master.

A. J. O'Bannon, Esq., 3rd Auditor, will accept our thanks for a copy of the report on Foreign Relations—a very valuable work.

The Opposition, or old Whig papers of Missouri, are hauling down the name of Edward Bates for President, since his late Black Republican letter made its appearance.

The special Corporation election, last week, resulted in the election of Capt. J. F. Smith Commissioner of the Revenue, and also in favor of the extension of the limits of the Corporation.

We will be absent during the approaching week. A friend has kindly consented to discharge the duties of editor during that time. Any errors that may occur in this issue, or strange doctrines in the next, must be attributed to the fact that we are non est inventus.

Our old friend "Jew David," alias James Slammom, Esq., will be seen by his advertisement, is now living at Rogersville, Tenn., and wants to employ a number of hands. In a private note to the editor, he represents Rogersville as a pleasant and cheap place to live.

Congress has appropriated \$50,000 to defray the expenses of the Japanese embassy, now on a visit to this country.

Also \$36,000 to indemnify the Shawnee Indians for depredations committed on their lands by the whites. This appropriation is nothing more nor less than an indirect robbery of the Treasury.

Friend Garber of that spicy sheet, the Houston (Miss.) Petrel, will accept our thanks for his kind notice of the Vindicator. We never expected to find Sandy in the corps editorial. When we left the Valley of Virginia several years ago, he was staying it. We wish him a pleasant and prosperous career in a calling not unfrequently strewn with thorns.

## Virginia and American Hotels.

Messrs. Peyton & Jordan are making extensive additions to the Virginia Hotel, and enlarging their facilities for accommodating the visitors and travelers in the summer season. They are now erecting a building, connected with the main Hotel by a porch, containing between 20 and 30 rooms, each with a fire place in it, and to be lighted with gas. This will make the Virginia one of the most commodious, as it is one of the best kept Hotels in the State.

The American Hotel, kept by our friend, S. B. Brown, Esq., is also undergoing renovation, and preparation is being made to meet the demands of the vast patronage which finds its way here in the months now approaching. Stanton, now, as she has always been, is marked for the superiority of her Hotels, and the comfort which the weary traveler receives on arriving here and finding such excellent accommodations.

## Off for Charleston.

The editor, his colleague, Dr. S. H. Moffett, and alternate, Capt. J. A. Harman, left for Charleston, to attend the National Convention, on Wednesday morning, intending to take the Railroad by Richmond and Petersburg.

The readers of the Vindicator may expect to hear from him on his arrival at Charleston, the great battle ground for the prize of the Presidential Chair.

There is no telling who is Governor until after the election, nor can we predict the successful candidate at Charleston thus far in advance. Suffice it, that we have an abiding faith that the nominee will be a sound, conservative Democrat, who will inspire the confidence of the party throughout the nation, and achieve a signal and glorious triumph in November next.

## Slavery in the Territories.

Frequent allusion is made, in the discussion of the question of Congressional power over the Territories, to the action of the people of New Mexico, through their Legislature, upon the subject of slavery. A law was enacted, protecting the right of property in slaves, and attaching severe penalties to the violation thereof. It is but just that the history of the origin of that law should be made known, as we have on several occasions seen the facts in the premises greatly distorted, and an erroneous phase given to the circumstances which originated the Territorial action.

The writer of this article was at the time of the passage of the law, residing in New Mexico, discharging the duties of a Federal office. Immediately after the decision of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case, we received a letter from a Missouri U. S. Senator, and one from the delegate in Congress, and a like one was written by a Mississippi U. S. Senator to the present Secretary of New Mexico, suggesting the propriety of having passed by the Territorial Legislature a law for the protection of slave property. It was argued that such Territorial action would be simply in accordance with the Dred Scott decision, and giving practical application to the principle it adjudicated. After considerable reflection and consultation, the bill, which passed the Legislature with but one dissenting voice, was drawn up, submitted to the assembly, and became a law.

It is well known that there are not over twenty negro slaves in the whole Territory of New Mexico. The law, then, it is apparent, was created merely to assert the principle which had been recognised by the highest judicial tribunal known to the country. Its assertion was of no practical benefit or pertinency to the people of New Mexico, for they never had the question presented to them. It was simply to show that the Territorial Legislature had the power to pass such a law; and if the power to pass, then, also, to defeat the bill. Hence, if it was deemed important by Senators to have a law passed by the Territorial Legislature of New Mexico, conveying the idea of protection to slave property, does not this fact argue that the refusal to pass such law would be considered tantamount to a want of protection? The whole question (reasoning logically and legitimately from the circumstances of the case) of slavery in the Territory, is left to the will of the Territorial Legislature, or the people. We are satisfied that the idea of the Senator who addressed us on the subject was in accordance with this conclusion, and that it was deemed an essential point, in order to illustrate the practical effect of the Dred Scott decision, to have this law prohibiting slavery, passed by the Legislature of New Mexico.

The converse of the action of the New Mexican Legislature was seen in the passage of an act both in the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska unfriendly to slavery. Here they legislated on the subject, exercising the same degree of power, but for a different purpose than was used in New Mexico. In both instances it was a practical declaration of "Popular Sovereignty"—not "Squatter Sovereignty"—and an illustration of the doctrine of non intervention by Congress. We so understood it at the time the New Mexican law was passed, and it was so intended we should understand it by the Senators who interested themselves in the matter—they seeking to give significance to the theory embraced in the decision of the Supreme Court.

We are well aware that with many persons a version is given to this question of slavery in the Territories, and justified by a process of metaphysical and theoretical argument at variance with the practical view of it. It is not a difficult or laborious task to mystify and confuse the mind by this mode of discussing the subject. But this end, when attained, as it must be, sooner or later, is narrowed down to one of two points—the people of a Territory, if they want slavery, will have it, and if they do not want it, they will not have it. It is sheer folly to exhaust time and create discussion in the ranks of the Democratic party, by a discussion of the abstract right involved, for it is a plain proposition, if the owner of a slave knows that a majority of the people of a Territory are unfriendly to slavery, that slave owner will not jeopard his property by placing it in an insecure relation. Wherever slavery is profitable, there slavery will go, and where it is not profitable, that principle of self interest which controls every community, will not let it go. We have never given an abolitionist the credit of being governed by conscientious principle in the advocacy of his peculiar views on the subject of slavery. We believe, if it could be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the people of New England, that their manufactures could be operated five cents on the hand cheaper by employing negro slave labor, than they can by white or free labor, there would be no time lost in introducing this species of servitude into their midst. It was only when the people of the North—bordering as they did on the ports where the hordes of foreign immigrants landed—found that slave labor was unprofitable, that they sold their slaves and passed laws prohibiting the existence of slavery among them. They did this as an act of economy, because they were satisfied, by mathematical certainty, that foreign white labor was cheaper than negro slave labor. It was a practical question, and not theoretical. It was a matter of dollars and cents, and not conscience; and thus it will ever be. It may suit the purpose of noisy politicians to rant about the abstract right of slaveholders in the common Territories, but when the great fact is to be approached, as to the existence or non-existence of slavery, the question is reduced down to those whose essence is "Popular Sovereignty"—i. e., the people, if they want slavery, will pass laws protecting it; and if they do not want it, they will pass no such laws; and this action will decide the controversy; for slavery will go there or not, just in accordance with the character of the legislation effecting it.

We believe slavery is the best condition for the negro—morally, socially and politically; but if we were to ascertain that it was not peculiarly advantageous for us to own negroes, we would be far from retaining them. The South does not maintain and foster slavery because of any moral compunctions; nor does the North oppose it from any such considerations. It is a question of finance, and the community which finds it profitable will have it; and vice versa.

We have given these views relative to the question of slavery in the Territories, knowing that many of our own party will dissent from, and endeavor to controvert them by a resort to metaphysical reasoning and assumptions in theory. We have not, nor do we mean to treat the subject in a hair splitting manner. We put the plain, practical interrogatory, "Will not the people of the Territory eventually decide whether they will or will not have slavery?" If so, is not the whole range of argument and thought touching upon the tangible, practical issue, embraced in the term "popular sovereignty"—the sovereignty of the people in determining what local laws they will pass regulating their own domestic institutions?

## The Difficulty Between Messrs. Pryor and Potter.

About a column and a half of yesterday's National Intelligencer is occupied with the correspondence between the Hon. Roger A. Pryor and the Hon. John F. Potter, in relation to their late correspondence "affair of honor." As we have already given the main points involved in this "important" correspondence, as we do not believe the fate of the universe depends on giving it to the reader at length, we subjoin a few extracts.

After some preliminary correspondence, Mr. Pryor (through his friend Mr. Chismen) demands of Mr. Potter "the satisfaction usual among gentlemen." Mr. Potter replies by referring Mr. Pryor to his friend, Col. Lander, to make the necessary arrangements. Now comes a letter from Mr. Lander, in which he says:

"I have to state that my principal, Hon. John F. Potter, disclaiming the particular rules of the code, will fight Hon. Roger A. Pryor with the common bowie knife, at such a place, private room or open air; at a time to be fixed within the next twelve (12) hours by you and myself; distance four feet at commencement of engagement. Two seconds to be present to each principal. Swords restricted to one navy revolver each. Knives of principle of equal weight and length of blade. Fight to commence at the word three (3.) The calling of the tally and word as between principal seconds to be decided by turning a piece of money."

To this proposition to fight with bowie knives, Mr. Chismen (Mr. Pryor's friend) responds:

"Not recognizing this vulgar, barbarous and inhuman mode of settling difficulties as either 'usual among gentlemen' or consistent with the notions of civilized society, I must, without referring your communication to my principal, (or even seeing him), emphatically refuse to allow him to engage in it. Whenever your principal will reply to Mr. Pryor's demand in such a way as may seem to be consistent with any fair and even most liberal construction of the 'rules of the code'—whether 'particular' or general—I shall be most happy to communicate to my principal such response."

To this Mr. Lander rejoins that his principal detests and abhors the barbarous and inhuman mode of settling difficulties "usual among gentlemen," termed "fighting." He then adds:

"Called upon by note to reply to your principal, he has made this statement. As his friend, I have presented it. You object to the terms. They were such as would enable my principal, who is unacquainted with the usual weapons of duellists, to meet your friend on equal terms. He waives the usual last resort of the non-duelist—the assertion that he will defend himself 'wherever assailed.' He even goes so far as to be willing to name time, place and weapons when at this stage of the affair you appear to the strict terms of the code, and express yourself dissatisfied. There is but one result. I disclaim any of the scruples which have actuated my friend, Mr. Potter. Differing with him as much as a man can in politics, I believe with him that every American citizen is entitled to the full expression of opinion. I therefore present myself in his place, without restrictions."

To Mr. Lander's offer, Mr. Chismen replies that neither Pryor nor himself have quarrel with Mr. Lander, and therefore respectfully declines to take him as a substitute for his principal. Mr. C. terminates the correspondence with the regret that the have been unable to adjust the matter between their principals in the manner "usual among gentlemen," which manner, though your principal detests and abhors it, as 'barbarous and inhuman,' would seem to men of plain sense not more so than a fight with bowie knives."

Mr. Lander, however, again writes, saying:

"I beg to assure you, without consulting my principal, that he will protect himself with honor wherever assailed. He also becomes my duty to inform you that Hon. John F. Potter did not know of my offer to appear for him."

Thus closes the "official" correspondence between the two congressional heroes, but Mr. Chismen adds as a sort of appendix a "further explanation." He gives first a note from Mr. Pryor, which, at the solicitation of Messrs. Lamar, Keitt and Miles, was not delivered to Mr. Potter by Mr. Chismen, although the latter was urgently requested by Mr. Pryor to do so. In this letter Mr. Pryor declares that he is "not seeking to restrict the liberty of speech of Mr. Potter, as his friend, Mr. Lander, charged but only intended to vindicate his own character against an aspersion."

In concluding this letter, Mr. Pryor pretends to inform Mr. Potter that he is "not seeking to restrict the liberty of speech of Mr. Potter, as his friend, Mr. Lander, charged but only intended to vindicate his own character against an aspersion."

The second note of the appendix is another letter from Mr. Pryor to Mr. Potter, written on the return of the former to Washington. In this Mr. Pryor says:

"Although your proposed terms of combat were rejected by my friend without conference with me, yet I have no alternative now but to submit to his decision. I find, however, in your rather significant and emphatic proclamation of a purpose to defend yourself against attack, some faint possibility of a settlement of the controversy between us. Acting on the suggestion, I beg to inform you that, if you will, within the next three hours, name a particular time and designate some place, out of the thoroughfares and most frequented portions of the city—with a view to escape interruption and to avoid injury to other persons—I will afford you an opportunity to redeem the vaunt with which you paraded your resources of self-defense."

Fortunately, while Mr. Chismen was on his way to deliver this closing letter of Mr. Pryor, he heard of the arrest of Mr. Potter so the matter dropped, if not to the "satisfaction usual among gentlemen," at least to the satisfaction of all who abhor scenes of violence and bloodshed.

The State Convention of the Democratic party of Missouri appointed 18 delegates to Charleston, 10 of whom are in favor of the nomination of Judge Douglas, and 8 for other aspirants. Among the Douglas delegates, we notice the name of N. C. Claiborne, Esq., formerly of Va., who is reported to have made an elegant speech before the Convention, advocating the claims of the Illinois Senator for the Presidency.

It is stated that the Hon. Wm. Preston, Ambassador to Spain, returned by the Asia, and has proceeded to Washington, having negotiated a treaty with the Queen's Government whereby all the questions hitherto in issue between the two nations are adjusted, and the most amicable relations re-established.

There are now two trains running daily on the Orange & Alexandria and Lynchburg Railroad.

## Will you Support the Nominee of the Charleston Convention?

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We have heard it remarked that a number of Democrats in this State, including the "great embodiment" of Whiggery, in support of the "great embodiment" of Whiggery, He opposed and denounced the sacrifice of the "embodiment" on the altar of Taylor availability, for which he was opposed and denounced in turn, and at the next election was defeated for Congress. The Taylor availability sacrificed him in his "blind and obstinate adherence to the Kentucky Statesman, after his withdrawal from the field, had left the name of BUREAU VISTA THE ONLY CANDIDATE IN COMPETITION WITH THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE." And now this same John Minor Botts, is refused a place with men assembled for the purpose of paying honor to the memory of Henry Clay.

Mr. Botts' experience, however, is similar to that of many other men of his day and generation. One man shears the sheep and others snatch up the wool and appropriate it to their own uses.—Virginia Index.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Delegates to the Charleston Convention from the Northwest and South are now here in considerable numbers. It is to be remarked that the delegates from each of the larger sections of the non-slaveholding States consider that their respective sections will control the result of the election. New York claims to be the turning point of the election, and Pennsylvania assumes that she is to decide the question. The great Northwest comes in now, and it is declared by her delegates that Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa are to control the election. If some of these States above mentioned should be really the turning point, the election will be likely to turn the wrong way.

The Senate committee on public lands have under consideration the whole subject of the House and Senate homestead bills, with all the amendments proposed in the Senate. They will frame a bill which will meet the views of the majority of the Senate, and commend itself to the support of the democracy generally. That course will neutralize the efforts of the republicans to make a political issue upon the House bill, which has been denounced in the Senate as an abolition measure. Senator Andrew Johnson, as the author of the original Senate bill, is to report the new bill.

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David A. Burr, who has recently retired from Utah, in a lecture last night, refuted the statement of Mr. Hooper, the Delegate from the Territory, that the Mormons have no courage of their own, and exhibited some of their money, which the authorities had forced into circulation, to show that it is 30 per cent. below the national standard.

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STOLEN MONEY RECOVERED.—The Marine Bank Agency at Columbus, Ga., has recovered \$43,404 of the \$45,542 recently stolen from its vaults. It was found by a hired slave secreted under a bridge. One of the bookkeepers has been arrested on suspicion. Both the owner and hirer of the slave claim the large reward offered for his recovery, and the bank will pay neither until the question of right is legally decided. Is not the slave the party to whom it rightfully belongs?

NASHVILLE, TENN., April 14.—Intelligence has been received here of the failure of the Lawrenceburgh Bank, at Lawrenceburgh. It is a free institution, and its owners are not known, nor can they be, at present, discovered. The circulation of the bank is said to be considerable—probably \$250,000—and very little, if any of it, will be redeemed. The paper here is regarded as nearly worthless. The notes have obtained quite a circulation in this State, Mississippi and Arkansas.

THE M. E. CHURCH AND SLAVERY.—The following are the votes of the several conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in regard to changing the general rule of the church so as to exclude slaveholders from communion: Arkansas Conference, for change, 1; against, 12. Baltimore, 149 against. East Baltimore, against, 150. Philadelphia Conference, for, 12; against, 170. Pittsburgh Conference, for, 13; against, 127. Missouri Conference, against, 42.

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## John M. Botts not allowed a seat with the friends of Henry Clay.

Mr. Botts was ignored by the Committee of Arrangements at the celebration of last Thursday. He was not invited to take a seat on the stand with the friends of Mr. Clay, nor was he invited to the dinner with the "guests" of the occasion at the Exchange Hotel. Why this premeditated slight? Whatever else we may say of Mr. Botts, we are bound to admit that his fidelity to Mr. Clay was unquestionable. He adhered to the fortunes of the great Kentuckian through good report and through evil report—aloud under the sun of Ansteritz and the clouds of Waterloo. In 1848, he stood almost solitary and alone—faithful among the faithless.

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Rev. Mr. Steketee, chaplain of the House had among his numerous auditors to-day the President, Speaker Pennington, and other members of Congress. He was so pointed in his remarks as to clearly demonstrate his strong condemnation of the duellists.

THE CHARLESTON CONVENTION.—It is now expected that the Charleston Convention will adjourn by Saturday, the 23rd at farthest. The exorbitant charges of the hotels will expedite the business. The Cincinnati Convention met five days, and passed the platform at the first. That precedent will be urged now. The rush of New York and Eastern delegates is expected here on Monday and Tuesday, when tickets for the round trip will be issued.—Washington Telegram.

STOLEN MONEY RECOVERED.—The Marine Bank Agency at Columbus, Ga., has recovered \$43,404 of the \$45,542 recently stolen from its vaults. It was found by a hired slave secreted under a bridge. One of the bookkeepers has been arrested on suspicion. Both the owner and hirer of the slave claim the large reward offered for his recovery, and the bank will pay neither until the question of right is legally decided. Is not the slave the party to whom it rightfully belongs?

NASHVILLE, TENN., April 14.—Intelligence has been received here of the failure of the Lawrenceburgh Bank, at Lawrenceburgh. It is a free institution, and its owners are not known, nor can they be, at present, discovered. The circulation of the bank is said to be considerable—probably \$250,000—and very little, if any of it, will be redeemed. The paper here is regarded as nearly worthless. The notes have obtained quite a circulation in this State, Mississippi and Arkansas.

THE M. E. CHURCH AND SLAVERY.—The following are the votes of the several conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in regard to changing the general rule of the church so as to exclude slaveholders from communion: Arkansas Conference, for change, 1; against, 12. Baltimore, 149 against. East Baltimore, against, 150. Philadelphia Conference, for, 12; against, 170. Pittsburgh Conference, for, 13; against, 127. Missouri Conference, against, 42.

ANOTHER DECLENSION.—Governor Houston has written a letter, which appears in the Texas papers, declining to allow his name to go before the Charleston Convention. He says that any movement for his election to the presidency must originate with the people.

WASHINGTON, April 15, 1860.—Hon. Wm. Cost Johnson died to-day at the National Hotel. So sudden was his decease that neither himself nor attending friends seemed aware that his life was near its close. Apparently he had been convalescing for some days back.

SOUTH CAROLINA CONVENTION.—Columbia, April 18.—The Democratic State Convention to-day re-affirmed the Baltimore and Cincinnati platform, including the Dred Scott decision. The proceedings were conservative. Adjourned sine die.

CAPTURED BY INDIANS.—Mrs J. H. Page an American lady, was recently captured in Arizona Territory by Indians. Captain Ewell, with two companies of dragoons, had started in pursuit of them.

## Will you Support the Nominee of the Charleston Convention?

This question will scarcely be propounded by one Democrat to another. It surely will not be suggested to any one who has taken part in the recent Conventions held for appointing delegates to Charleston. Unquestionably, it is now too late for any one thus committed to raise such a question. Every man that went into a District Convention for the appointment of delegates to the National Convention, by that very act, pledged himself to the support of the nominee of the latter body, as fully, in our view of the case, as any one can pledge himself beforehand.

We have heard it remarked that a number of Democrats in this State, including the "great embodiment" of Whiggery, in support of the "great embodiment" of Whiggery, He opposed and denounced the sacrifice of the "embodiment" on the altar of Taylor availability, for which he was opposed and denounced in turn, and at the next election was defeated for Congress. The Taylor availability sacrificed him in his "blind and obstinate adherence to the Kentucky Statesman, after his withdrawal from the field, had left the name of BUREAU VISTA THE ONLY CANDIDATE IN COMPETITION WITH THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE." And now this same John Minor Botts, is refused a place with men assembled for the purpose of paying honor to the memory of Henry Clay.

Mr. Botts' experience, however, is similar to that of many other men of his day and generation. One man shears the sheep and others snatch up the wool and appropriate